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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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09/807,070

07/05/2001

John W. Sims

39786/MEG

2377

23363

7590

07/26/2006

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EXAMINER

LANEAU, RONALD

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3627

DATE MAILED: 07/26/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

**Office Action Summary**

Application No.

09/807,070

Applicant(s)

SIMS ET AL.

Examiner

Ronald Laneau

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 03 May 2006.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-26 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-26 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)   | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                                   | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)             |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____  |

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***Response to Amendment***

1. The response filed on 5/3/06 has been entered. Claims 24-26 have been added and claims 1-26 are now pending.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

4. Claims 1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 11, 13, 15, 17, 19 and 24-26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Brooks, Jr et al (US 6,067,530) in view of Meeker (US 5,883,371).

As per claims 1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 11, 13, 15, 17, 19 and 24-26, Brooks discloses a method of providing a communication interface for coupling a point-of-sale system 38 to

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a cash management system 24 for providing communication between the P.O.S. system and the cash management system (fig. 2A, 39), providing software on the cash management system to permit operation of the cash management system over a communication link and providing software on the P.O.S. system to permit control of the cash management system over the internet (fig. 1, electronic drop safe), a method wherein providing software on the P.O.S. system to permit control of the cash management system over the communication link (fig. 2A, 39) and providing software on the P.O.S. system to permit control of the cash management system over the internet (fig. 1, electronic drop safe). Brooks does not disclose a cash management system including a cash dispensing function but Meeker discloses a cash management including a digital deposit dispensing safe (see abs., fig.1).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to utilize the cash management including a digital deposit and dispensing safe as taught by Meeker into the system of Brooks because it would eliminate the need for the store manager having to manually verify each cashier and also enable the store manager to spend less time counting money and more time servicing customers.

As per claims 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, 14, 16, 18, and 20-23, Brooks discloses Brooks discloses a method of providing a communication interface for coupling a point-of-sale system 38 to a cash management system 24 for providing communication between the P.O.S. system and the cash management system (fig. 2A, 39), providing software on the cash management system to permit operation of the cash management system over a communication link and providing software on the P.O.S. system to permit control of the cash management system over the internet (fig. 1, electronic drop safe), a method

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wherein providing software on the P.O.S. system to permit control of the cash management system over the communication link (fig. 2A, 39) and providing software on the P.O.S. system to permit control of the cash management system over the internet (fig. 1, electronic drop safe), a cash machine system 28 over a communication link 39 including providing a graphical user interface 38. Brooks does not disclose a cash management system including a cash dispensing function but Meeker discloses a cash management including a digital deposit dispensing safe (see abs., fig.1).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to utilize the cash management including a digital deposit and dispensing safe as taught by Meeker into the system of Brooks for the same reasons given in previous claims.

#### ***Response to Arguments***

5. Applicant's arguments filed 5/3/06 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

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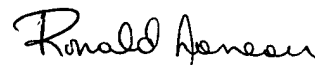
Applicant argues that there is no suggestion or motivation to combine the references. In response to Applicant's arguments, the examiner recognizes that obviousness can only be established by combining or modifying the teachings of the prior art to produce the claimed invention where there is some teaching, suggestion, or motivation to do so found either in the references themselves or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art. See *In re Fine*, 837 F.2d 1071, 5 USPQ2d 1596 (Fed. Cir. 1988) and *In re Jones*, 958 F.2d 347, 21 USPQ2d 1941 (Fed. Cir. 1992). Applicant further argues that Brooks and Mecker fail to disclose the recited limitation feature "providing a user interface software on the P.O.S. system which emulates the user interface of the cash management system." In response to Applicant's arguments, Brooks does disclose such feature (see rejection above). Therefore, Claims 1-26 are finally rejected.

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ronald Laneau whose telephone number is (571) 272-6784. The examiner can normally be reached on 5:30 - 3:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Alexander Kalinowski can be reached on (571) 272-6771. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.



Ronald Laneau  
Primary Examiner  
Art Unit 3627

7/21/06

rl